

# IN THE BEGINNING



Published Quarterly By  
Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas  
Vol. 13 - No. 50

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April, 1980

*Lester A. Harding, Editor*

### Editor's Notes —

The marking of an X in a red box to remind subscribers that their subscription has expired has had fairly good success, by the returns of letters. But there are still quite a few to be paid yet.

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The increase in demand for copies of **In The Beginning** has caused the task to be almost a full time job. We didn't intend for it to be that way when we started it. Our interesting hobby has become quite a job, with the same 'pay' it started out with. However, words and letters of appreciation and encouragement help make up for any pay.

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It may seem odd that in this issue of **In The Beginning** that we have two families of Millers and in the July issue we will have another. The two in this issue are, Carl M. Miller or better known around Rose as Charley and then Gottfried Miller, lived in the hills along Brazil Creek west of Yates Center. Both of these men were born in Germany, but of no relation. In the next issue will be about Asa W. Miller. He was born along Turkey Creek and no relation to the other two families.

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For the first time since we started publishing "**In The Beginning**", we had to go back to the printers for more than the usual 500 before we had all of the subscribers attended to. Vol. 13, No. 49 - January, 1980 issue run over the 500.

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We needed a filler in this space but did not come up with any so looks like we just fizzled out!!

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## IN THE BEGINNING

Published Quarterly By  
Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas

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WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Organized March, 1965

The January dinner meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society was held at the Woodson House, on Tuesday evening of January 25, 1980 at 7 o'clock. There were 42 present for the dinner. After the meal the meeting was turned over to Pam Vineyard and Terry Parrott representatives of the Kansas Gas and Electric Company. Ms. Vineyard showed slides and talked about the Wolf Creek Nuclear Plant being built just north of Burlington.

It was an interesting program that is of much concern to the people of this area.

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The membership of the Woodson County Historical Society reach a total of 253 members for 1979. There were 126 Life Members and 127 Regular Members. We hope for that many or more in 1980.

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In a letter from B. W. Depew, who was born and raised in Yates Center, now of Des Moines, Iowa, he tells this "I believe that I can settle the long discussed building of the first hotel in Durand. In reading a 1903 diary I find that on the 4th and 5th of May I wrote-'Worked lathing at Durand Hotel'. There was no other commercial building at the site, but I believe that excavating was under way south of the hotel.

I hiked to and from work. Gangs of Bulgarians and Greeks in native attire were laying the new cut-off track. I'm not sure but I believe the R.R. station was being built. After all, remembering clearly everything happening 77 years ago isn't easy. But there couldn't have been an earlier hotel."

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The last two meetings of the Administrative Board of the Woodson County Historical Society have been postponed because of the big snow that we had.

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Quite a few have paid their membership dues, but there are still quite a few that have not paid.

\* \* \* \* \*

Join and Support the  
Woodson County Historical Society

Life Membership \$25.00

Regular Membership \$2.00 year

## UNKNOWN COWBOY'S GRAVE —

A lone unmarked sandstone can be found amid a growth of small trees, tangled wild blackberry bushes, sumac weed and grass, on a high knoll just to the south of the bridge where Turkey Creek crosses the present U.S. 75, ten miles north of Yates Center.

There are other sandstone markers in the little unknown and unmarked graves. The tale of how this little burying place started dates away back to the first settlers of Woodson County. During the days of the early cattle drive from the southern states. One of these trails came to Baxter Springs, Kansas. At times the drovers could not sell all of their cattle and the trail led on into Coffey County. One of these herds of cattle were camped along the south side of Turkey Creek. One of the riders took sick and died in the camp. He was buried in an unmarked grave with just the plain sandstone to mark his burying place.

There were other early settlers buried here. Asa Jones who homesteaded the quarter section where these graves were, was buried there, but later his remains were removed to the Crandall Cemetery in Coffey County.

We were told that this story of the cowboy being buried there was told by Ollie Crandall Lamb, who was born and raised about a mile on down Turkey Creek from the little burying place.



The unmarked and unknown grave of an unknown cowboy who was evidently a long ways from home on the prairie of Woodson County.

For many years this little burying place was unknown until the US 75 was widened out a few years ago, when workers discovered the sandstone markers on top of this knoll. Work was stopped there, but there is a possibility that some graves were destroyed.



This is supposed to be a group of cowboys camped in Coffey County in 1870. It seemed to be chow time near the chuck wagon, with the saddled horses in background.

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THE NEOSHO FALLS POST - Friday, October 17, 1884 —

Published every Friday - Hogueland, Hamm & Co. Business office in Hamm's post office building, where all contracts must be made. Oldest paper in the county established in 1869. (Hogueland & Hamm also had a large real estate business.)

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We are in receipt of a stalk of hemp, grown by George Kelsay, measuring ten and a half feet in height.

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The Neosho Falls Post, Grand Army of the Republic, has arranged for a lecture to be given in their hall on Oct. 29, by Capt. H. B. Seely on "The Waterloo of America" or The Battle of Gettysburg."

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The next meeting of the Everett Township Farmer's Club will be held at the residence of Mrs. S. J. Smith, the fourth Saturday in October.

HACK LINE - Neosho Falls to Colony - Neosho Falls to Yates Center. Leave Neosho Falls post office every morning at 9 a.m. making close connections at Colony with trains north and south and at Yates Center with trains east and west. O.F. Anderson, Proprietor, Neosho Falls, Kansas.

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#### CARL HERMAN MILLER —

Carl Miller was born September 22, 1829 in Germany. His father's name was John Miller. The first trace we have of him was in 1866. Carl or Charles as he was known by his neighbors, first homesteaded the southwest quarter of Section 8, Twp. 26, Range 16. The west half of this quarter section is now and has been the twin of Rose for many years. Mr. Miller did not get his U.S. Patent for this quarter section until June 20, 1868. However, he had already sold it to Alva Brush on September 27, 1866. This transaction was witnessed by Charles Baland, Justice of Peace.

In the story proceeding this about William H. George who had frozen to death in either November or December of 1868, leaving his widow Roena and four children. On March 14, 1869, Roena was married to Carl H. Miller. Their first home was in the northeast quarter of the same section that Miller had homesteaded in 1866.

Carl or Charley Miller received his U.S. Patent for this quarter section, October 1, 1872. It would seem feasible that this could be the homestead of William H. George. It is possible that there was an orchard on this place but there is no hill where George could have been buried. The closest hill to this farm would have been less than a mile to the west.

As the George children grew up they married and some married and stayed in the vicinity for awhile. In the January, 1980 issue of In The Beginning we mentioned that Belle George married Harvey Slater and then left the country in 1880. This was an error as the birth records of Woodson County gives a daughter being born to Harvey Slater and Belle George Slater on December 2, 1894. Their address was Rose. The baby was delivered by Mary E. Whelchel of Center Ridge. Mary Whelchel was evidently the mid-wife of the community.

Charles H. and Roena Miller were the parents of four daughters. Florence also known as 'Faun', Maggie, Gladys and Rena.

Florence Miller married William S. Barnes and lived at Chanute.

Maggie Miller married Bert Rice. Gladys Miller married Clay Haydon.

Rena Miller married George Nelson.



In February, 1907, Charles Miller sold his farm and moved in- to the town of Rose. They lived there several years. They both passed away at different dates at the home of their daughter Florence (Mrs. W.S. Barnes) in Chanute. They are both buried in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery along U.S. 75 south of Yates Center. Their daughter Gladly (Mrs. Henry Clay Haydon) is also buried there.



This is the Miller farm home a mile north and  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile east of Rose. Roena and Carl or Charles Miller seated. Standing left to right, Rena by tree, Gladly and Clay Haydon.



The Miller Family, Carl and Roena seated. Standing, Gladly, Maggie, Faun or Florence with Rena in center.

We would like to tell more of the William George family that we did not tell in the last issue. We are still trying to locate the homestead of this family. In the story of the Kalida school, the first day of school was held in a log cabin in 1868. This school building was in the southwest corner of section 26, that is three miles south and one a half miles east of Yates Center. In listing the pupils going to that first day of school were the Woodruff, Landis, and Scott families and "two boys from the George family." These boys were James E. George, age 7 and William H. George, age 5. This was in the spring of 1868 and William George died in November or December of that year. These names were in the recollections of Robert Rhea about Kalida. If the George homestead was on a hill it would be somewhere along the south side of the South Branch of Owl Creek south of the Parallel line.

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We have mentioned the Harvey Slater family above, and will give what the 1900 census of Eminence Twp. Woodson Co. on June 14, 1900.

Slater, H.S. born Sept. 1865 married 14 years in Indiana.

Slater, Belle, wife, born, Sept. 1866 in Indiana.

Slater, Russell, son, born, Dec. 1889, in Kansas.

Slater, Titus, son, born, Aug. 1892, in Kansas.

Slater, Nita, daughter, born Dec. 1894 in Kansas.

Slater, Norma, daughter, born June 1897 in Kansas.

Slater, Nellie, daughter, born Sept. 1899 in Kansas.

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This four generation photo was taken in Yates Center prior to 1916. Mrs. Roena Miller, her daughter Mary George Scott Stillwell, her daughter Della Fisher and Della's baby daughter.



### SCHOOL DISTRICT #13 —

School district, also known as Mt. Piscah School was organized in 1862. As indicated by the number it was one of the first organized in the county. The first school house was built on the east side of the present US 75, about 2¼ miles north of Yates Center, just to the south of where the large trench silo is located at the Blackjack Cattle Co.

School was evidently held some place else first as the first record of any transaction was — “An indenture between School Dist. #13, Liberty township and Hiram Cook” for one acre in the southwest corner of the Northwest quarter of Section 35, Twp., 25, R. 14. and witnessed by O.P. Augustine, Justice of Peace on Dec. 11, 1872. This was ten years after the district was organized.

School District #13, Clerk's report for 1866, was as follows: Number of children over 5 years old and under 21 were - males 19. Females 21, a total of 40. Number attending were - males 12, females 16, with a total of 28, with a daily average of 14 7/12's.

It was a three month term of school with S.M. Stansburg as teacher, who received \$4.00 per scholar. The report was made and signed on 1st day of Sept. 1866, by Thomas A. Blanchard, District Clerk.

The clerk, Thos. A. Blanchard lived about one and half miles to the north and a mile west from the school house. Blanchard had established the first post office of Coloma in their house while his mother ran an eating house and hotel. The teacher S.M. Stansbury lived across the road to the north of Blanchards.

We do not know just when the schoolhouse was moved to the west side of the road, but records show that on April 29, 1911, Ralph McCormick sold 1 acre of land to school dist. #13, in the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of section 34 for the sum of \$50.00.

Henry Cook had died in 1873 and was buried in the little cemetery about a quarter mile north of the schoolhouse. His widow, Elizabeth, better known as “Aunt Toddy” and three small children, Clarence, Ida B. and Robert, and their “Uncle Bobby.” Allen lived on what is now the Krueger farm a mile north of Yates Center. Clarence and Ida were attending the Dist. 13 school. One day as they went to school, their mother and Uncle Bobby had an occasion to go to Humboldt. A heavy rain came up and main Owl Creek went out of its banks. As the little Cook's came to the creek, an Indian who lived along the creek was waiting for them. As he knew that the others had gone somewhere. He put Clarence and Ida on the pony with him and took them across the swollen creek to their home.



This picture was taken during the term of 1933 or 1934, with Elaine Koenig Horsch as teacher. Back row, Helen Gunnels Knapp, Mary Alice Norris Green, Sam Norris, Teacher, Helen McCormick Lee. Front row, Richard McCormick, Sarah Ann Norris, Flossie Brodman Doyle, Earl Brodman, Harry Theobald, Calvin Brodman.

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We have no other teacher besides Stansbury, from 1866 to 1881, when the first list of teachers of the county were made. We will give the teachers as they come but not the dates. We believe that some are missing from the records around 1905.

In 1881, Nellie Stewart, Hancie Naylor, Sallie Johnson, Etta Davidson, Hattie Brown, W. H. Layton, W. A. Culver, John Bothwell, 2 terms; Olive Wilder, Carrie Davidson, Martha Hammond, L.N. Tallman 2 terms; Hattie Howard, Ethel Elliot, Clara Coe, Minnie Bausfeld, 2 terms; Ruth Augustine, 1900; Amelia Buhalts, 2 terms; Hazel McCormick, Jessie Cowan, Ione Mason, Ethel Dumond, Lucy Ellis, 2 terms; Marjorie Mentzer, Edna Mae Saferite, 2 terms; Mrs. Nellie Manifold, 2 terms; Edith Dawson, Millie Thomas, Gertrude Sager, Elaine Koenig, Edna Mae Weide, and Goldie Williams, 1935-36.

It was during the 1935-36 term of school that the schoolhouse was struck by lightning and the building burned to the ground with all contents. No attempt was made to rebuild the schoolhouse as the teacher Goldie Williams (Brodman) and the pupils were all transferred to the Yates Center school.

## DENNIS CORKERY & FAMILY —

One of the most outstanding characters to live in the northwest part of the county came from Ireland. Dennis Corkery, more prominently known as 'Old Denny' as long as the writer can remember was born in Cork, Ireland, March 19, 1844. When Dennis was four years old he came with his parents to America, settling in Boston, Mass. While still a child both of his parents died leaving him to shift for himself finding odd jobs to be found in a big city. One of these main jobs was that of a newsboy.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, in 1861, Dennis Corkery enlisted in Company D, Third New York Volunteer Cavalry. Corkery was an Orderly under the famous General Phil H. Sheridan. He was with Sheridan in most of the General's battles, including the laying waste to the Shenandoah Valley in 1864.

Mr. Corkery told that he knew and talked with the President Abraham Lincoln. And in his later years no Memorial Day celebration in Yates Center was complete without "Denny" Corkery giving the famous Gettysburg Address.

Soon after the close of the War between the States, Dennis Corkery came to Leavenworth, KS. Here he stayed for a few years. It was here that he became acquainted with and married Margareth Moehly, November 25, 1874, at the Catholic Cathedral in Leavenworth. Margareth was born in Galloway County, Ireland in 1848. When about 20 years of age she came to America. They came to Woodson Co. around 1878. They lived in the Dry Creek area for sometime with Virgil as their town and later moved to the Keck vicinity.

Nine children were born to this union. Six sons and three daughters. The first two Catherine and Daniel were born in Leavenworth, the rest after coming to Woodson County. Mary, Thomas J., Dennis S., Jr., Patrick H., Margaret (Mrs. C.O. Davis), and Phil Sheridan Corkery.

The first three children died at an early age.

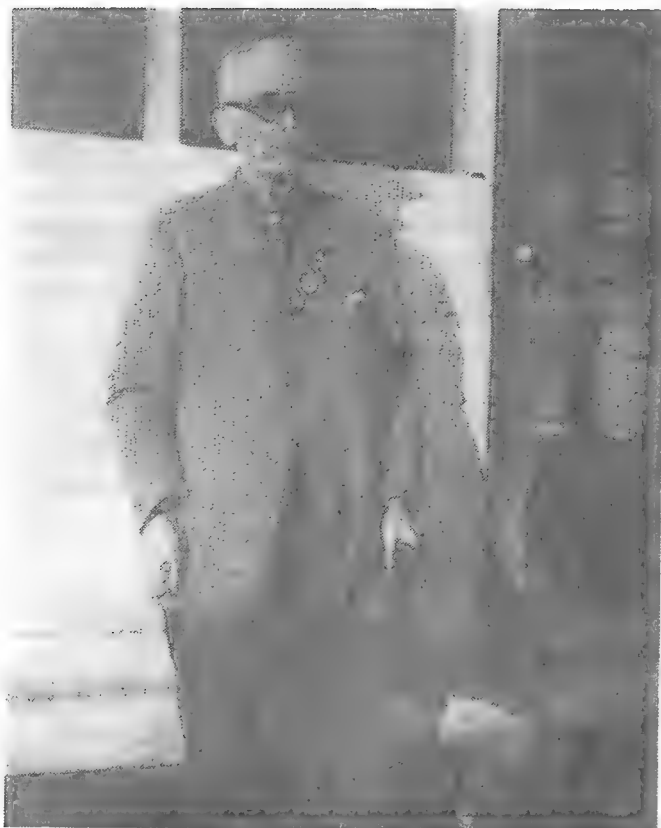
Mary married Fred W. Dyer.

Thomas J. married Martha Steinforth. They had two sons, Floyd and Elmer. They were married Apr. 3, 1911.

Dennis married Myrtle Riner. They were parents of four children Marvin, Max, Dorothy (Mrs. Alfred Kester) and Elsie (Mrs. Jerry Strawn)

Patrick H. and Phil Sheridan Corkery neither married.

Dennis S. Corkery and his wife Margareth are both buried in the Virgil Cemetery, as are some of their children.



Dennis Sarsfield Corkery as he looked in his later years. As we remember him he lived in a frame house along the west side of Turkey Creek a mile north and a mile east of the Kimbell Ranch. He would walk or catch a ride to Yates Center. When and where he would stop along the square he would soon have a group around him, listening to his stories. We remember one tale he told. It was during the Civil War. They were stationed along a large river. It seems like it was the Mississippi. There was a large rocky bluff. They could see names carved there like Kit Carson, Jim Bridger and other early famous men. He told that he reached as close to them as he could and carved "Cpl. Dennis Corkery, U.S. Army" and the date.

Margarath Corkery passed away June 23, 1913, at her home at Keck and Dennis at Leavenworth, May 16, 1931. They were both buried in the Virgil, Kansas Cemetery.

## SOME HISTORY OF WOODSON COUNTY JAILS —

In the history of the county there have been quite a few years that the county has had no jail, even though mention of a county jail was talked about.

The first meeting of the Board of Supervisors for Woodson County was at Neosho Falls on May 22, A.D. 1858. (This board later was known as the County Commissioners) The next meeting was also at Neosho Falls. At this meeting the county was divided off into five townships. Neosho Falls, Liberty, Owl Creek, Belmont and Verdigris.

The only other town in the county at that time was the log cabin settlement of Belmont. The third meeting of the Supervisors was at Belmont, October, 12, 1868. It seems to me difficulty arose about the meeting places for the county officials. Three meetings were scheduled in November and December, two at Belmont and one at Neosho Falls, but no quorum was present at these three meetings, and the men present at these meetings were names not mentioned at the first meetings.

Both Neosho Falls and Belmont had aspirations of being the county seat.

The next meeting of any Board of Supervisors was on April 5, 1859, Neosho Falls, Kansas Territory, members present were R. Pearsoll (Belmont) E. Wheeler, (Owl Creek) and B.F. Goss (Neosho Falls.) Goss was elected as chairman. On the proposition that a jail be donated by N.S. Goss for as long as the county seat remain at Neosho Falls. There was one vote for and one against. The chair voted for the proposition and the vote carried.

The jail for Woodson County was rather a make-shift affair for the next several years.

On July 4, 1865, the Board met as per adjournment. Thomas Sira, Jonathan Foster and John Lobaugh present. D.H. Miller (sheriff) comes before the board and requests that they declare that there is not and never has been a jail erected in this county. A resolution was passed by the above Commissioners, declaring that there is no jail in this county.

About two years later the efforts started for the forming of a new county seat. As the county seat then moved from Neosho Falls to Kalida, then to Defiance and then to Yates Center there was still no jail building.

Some prisoners were taken to Iola, but mostly the prisoner was placed in a room with some one appointed to guard him. One instance of this kind of a set-up was the starting of the big "Shoot-out" on the square in 1880, four years after Yates Center became a county.

About March 11, 1880, the trial for a man named Wiley Welch was set for and to be held in the Courthouse in the northeast corner of the square. James Cannady was deputy sheriff and his brother, Frank Cannady was deputized to guard the prisoner as there was no jail in Yates Center.

On the day of the trial, Frank Cannady was walking along the south side of the square with his prisoner when all bedlam seemed to let loose. A team of black horses hitched to a farm wagon with 3 or 4 men in it, all flourishing revolvers. The team turned from the south corner of the square at the southeast corner and turned north toward the courthouse.

All was confusion, Abe Smith, who had completed his four years as sheriff, but was always in the thick of any danger mounted his horse and caught up with the wagon and exchanged shots with the desperadoes in the wagon. Turning back south in front of Bacons Drug Store, Abe was seen to reel in the saddle. Not knowing how bad he was hit the cry went up "Abe is hit! Kill them! By this time the courtroom was cleared and scores of people were trying to see what was happening and tried to stay out of the way of any stray bullets.

The escape seemed to have started in front of the harness shop where Albert Alvord had taken the right hand line in the shop for repairs. That was when John Welch, brother of the prisoner stepped in front of Frank Cannady and told him to throw down his arms, if he had any. Frank replied that he was not carrying any, but evidently was as he drew out a revolver and shot. The bullet lodged against Welch's spine.

As the team has careened around the square James Cannady ran to his home close by and got his shotgun. As the wagon load of men came to the harness shop the horses came to a halt. The Cannady brothers had reversed and intercepted the team. One man stood up in the wagon with a gun in each hand, took deliberate aim at James Cannady, pulled the trigger but the bullet snapped. Frank Cannady then took the gun from his brother and called out to the bandit to throw down his guns. Frank then cut loose with the shotgun loaded with bird shot. The shot hit the man over the head and face as he dropped into the wagon. This man was Curley DeLang, a half-breed Cherokee Indian, who had formerly lived on Turkey Creek.

John Welch died from the bullet shot. Through out all of this story, no mention was ever made of the Sheriff Davis.

Another four years went by without a jail in Woodson County. Yates Center had been a town for almost eight years and still did not have a jail. Yates Center was incorporated as a third class city in March 24, 1884.



The Mayor Henry Ashley, and city council met on September 15, 1884. As no jail had been built the city decided to build a "Plank Cailboose". It was to be 14x16x10 feet high. It was made of 2 by 8 inch planks layed one on top of the other making the walls 8 inches thick. It was built at a cost to the city of \$83.00. It was built at the east side of the old courthouse, where the old stone jail still stands.

We do not know just what the date was, but evidently in the winter time. Two men robbed the H.S. Johnson Drug Store, crawling through a window. They were caught before long and were put in the plank jail. The jail was heated with a wood or coal stove. One night the two prisoners decided to make their escape. They heated the stove poker to a red hot heat and started burning a hole through the 8 inch planks. After so long a time they had burnt a hole large enough so that they could crawl through it.

In the Yates Center News of April 21, 1898, a drawing of the new courthouse appeared with the notice that a contract had been let for the building of a new courthouse and jail at the cost of \$22,147. The buildings were completed that fall.

The Yates Center News of June 15, 1967 carried the order by District Court Judge Spencer A. Gard that on the 6th day of June the Woodson County jail was visited and inspected as required by law and found it to be wholly unfit for human habitation. This order condemned for any use whatever, either by the county or by the city of Yates Center, and its use for the confinement of prisoners at any time is prohibited.

The old jail was condemned in November, 1963, but was used until June, 1967. County prisoners have been taken to jails in Burlington and Iola since then.

The site for the new jail caused quite some discussion as the plan for building it in the courtyard received some opposition.

The Yates Center News of November 26, 1968, carried the accepted low bid for the construction of a new county jail. The Woodson County Commissions, Virgil Winfrey, Edwin Fulhage and Bill Herman opened the bids and accepted two bids, one for the construction. The bid for the general contract totaled \$35,033, and the bid of \$5,595 for the steel work, totaling \$40,628.

## GOTTFRIED MILLER FAMILY —

While he was known as Gottfried Miller, his name as given him was - Andrew Daniel Gottfried Muller. Also his father was named Gottfried Muller. The elder Gottfried was born in Foxstead, Germany. His son who is the subject of this story was born in Voigtstadt, Sangerhausen, Saxony in Prussia, on April 22, 1847. He grew up in the locality and when he became of military age he served his term in the German Army. In the picture there are three medals pinned on his coat. On his left side the medal is called the State Service Medal, the one in the center is a Commemorative Medal which carries a picture of the Kaiser, the other is a Service Medal.

On February 16, 1873, in Nicolausreith, Germany, Gottfried Muller was married to Johanna Karoline Weide, by Pastor J. Gaus. Johanna Karoline was born June 28, 1850 in Menbach, near Nordhausen in Saxony of Prussia. Her parents were August and Dorothea (Aderhoet) Weide. Dorothea Weide was born in Germany and evidently came to America with the Christoff Weide family. Dorothea died near Yates Center and we believe that she was the first person buried in the Turkey Creek Cemetery, across the road from the Turkey Creek Church, in 1895. Her son Christoff Weide had donated the plot of ground for the cemetery.

The first five children of Gottfried and Karoline Muller were born in Nicolausreith, Germany. The spelling of some names were spelled different as they came to America and some names dropped. The names they were known by we will put in parenthesis.

Karoline (Clara) was born Nov. 23, 1874 and died, Oct. 18, 1951, in Yates Center. She was married to John Lauber. John was born near Yates Center, October 20, 1874, and died June 18, 1954. They had no children.

Frederick Karl Franz (Frank C.) born Dec. 8, 1875. He was married to Emma Stockebrand. In 1917 he moved to Idaho, where he died in 1918. They were the parents of six children, George, Nelson, John, Lenore, Emma and Fern.

Frederick Wilhelm Ludwig (Fritz W.) born on Feb. 15, 1878 and died in 1957. Fritz C. was married to Augusta C. Bulk. Their children were, Edward F., Hattie, Esther, Thelma and Irvin. In 1950 Fritz wrote the story of his life, telling some about their moving around that we will tell in the latter part. Fritz later married his brother Bruno's widow Mathilda.

Rigard (?) Rudolph (Paul) Miller was born Nov. 17, 1879. He died in Yates Center, July 29, 1953 in Yates Center. Paul R. was married Feb. 14, 1906, to Anna Ethel Winter who was born July 30, 1884 in Toronto, KS. Their children were, Robert, Ruth, Thelma, Glenn, and Annabelle.

Gustoff Gottfried (Bruno) Miller was born Jan. 30, 1882. On October 21, 1909 he was married to Matilda Beine, who was born Dec. 31, 1887 in Leavenworth, Kansas and died July 10, 1853. Their children were: Thomas E. Miller born Jan. 6, 1923. Married on Dec. 23, 1944, to Frances E. Blunt. Mildred Mae (Callison). She has a daughter Susan.

Anna Linna Pauline Miller, born Oct. 6, 1884 near Toronto, KS and died in Yates Center. she married Henry Frederick Lauber, born Nov. 17, 1869. Their children were Tillie May, Carol Louise, Edwin Charles and John Henry. A baby girl died in infancy. John Henry married Margaret Guenther. They lived at 510 Green Street, Yates Center. Anna Pauline died when John Henry was born in 1913. As a tiny baby he was taken in the home of his uncle and aunt Bruno and Mathilda Miller who raised him.

Arno C. Miller was born Oct. 7, 1886 and died in 1912 in Yates Center.

Albert (Carl) Richard Miller was born Oct. 23, 1890. He married Nellie Laura Richter. Their children were, Leona Fern, Lee Arno, Eldon Keith, Hazel Irene, and Pearl Vanessa. Leona Fern was married to Elmer F. Krueger. Carl Miller was sheriff of Woodson County for two terms.

Hattie Miller was born October 13, 1888. She was married to Fred W. Bulk on Oct. 13, 1909. Their children were Carl Bulk, Franklin Bulk and Walter William Bulk.

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In the year of 1884, Godfried and Karoline Muller and five children came to America. They came to Woodson County, Kansas, where they had relatives. Their first home here was in a log house on Turkey Creek, evidently on the Charles H. Weide farm, as some of the children went to the Askren Dist. No. 2 school. After around two years of working for the settlers along that part of Turkey Creek the Muller family moved to a farm two miles north of Yates Center, belonging to a banker named Winters. Three years later they moved to a farm about three miles southeast of Yates Center.

About a year later Mr. Miller purchased 240 acres in the hills at the head of the west branch of Brazil Creek. The 80 acres where the house and buildings were Mr. Miller purchased at sheriff's sale for \$100. A. A. Keck was the sheriff. Sometime

later Miller purchased 160 acres adjoining on the west. The 80 was the west half of the northwest quarter of section 6, Twp. 25, Range 14. The quarter of section 1, Twp. 25, Range 13 was obtained for \$1,000.



THE GOTTFRIED MILLER FAMILY — Back row from the left, Clara, Carl Richard, Hattie, Bruno, Anne Pauline, Seated: Arnold, Paul R., Gottfried, Karoline, Fritz W., and Frank C.

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The farmstead of the Miller's mentioned in the hills on Brazil was ten miles west and one and half miles north of Yates Center.

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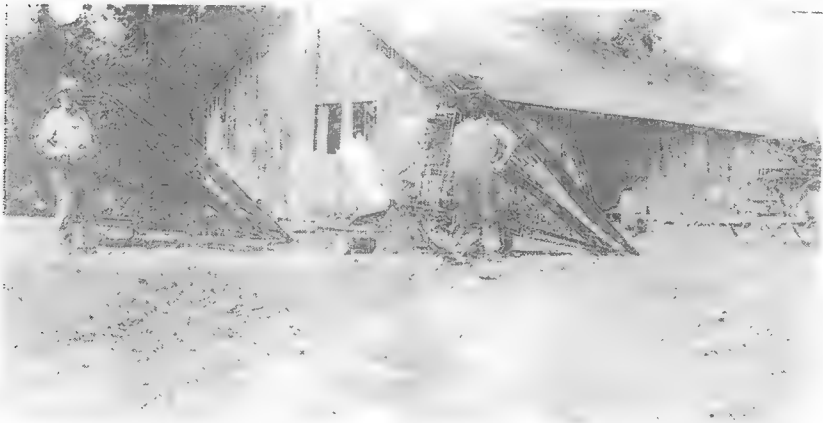
WOODSON COUNTY ADVOCATE, Feb. 14, 1913 - Yates Center

— Machinery and material for the sewer is being shipped in this week and actual work on the ditches will probably start Monday. The big ditcher has arrived and has been attracting considerable interest since it was unloaded. This machine does the work of a number of men and will easily excavate rock to a certain depth as well as dirt. If you are on hand Monday near the Santa Fe depot you will see this ditcher throw out the first wagon load of dirt for Yates Center's new sewer.

## GEORGE GUY & HIS BLACKSMITH SHOP —

About a half mile south of Duck Creek and almost completely hidden by small trees, brush and weeds is a long narrow building that was known for many years as George Guy's blacksmith shop. It is now delapidated.

This however, was not just a common blacksmith shop, but in its hey-day was equipped with lathes and machinery that made it one of the best equipped shops in that part of the country, even we like to remember it as a country blacksmith shop. And its owner, George Guy was one of the best skilled workman throughout that part of the country. George was well known and his shop had been a landmark for many of the past years.



This picture shows the blacksmith shop a good many years ago. Note the old horse-drawn corn binder. The man standing on the left, is "Deafy" Reed who lived along Big Creek over in Coffey County.

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What was perhaps the first blacksmith shop in northwest Woodson County was a small log building just to the north of this shop. The smithy was Rugh, grandfather of George Guy. The Rugh family had come to Woodson Co. in a covered wagon in 1872. Rugh had been an officer in the Union Army during Civil War. Following the war he took up blacksmith trade at his home in Pennsylvania.

In looking over some old family papers on the Rugh's an old daily record book was found that had been kept, giving an account of his smithwork in the East. Under the heading, "Duck Creek, Woodson County", during the early 1870's were the

names of a good many early day settlers not only along Duck Creek, but clear to the last settlers along Turkey Creek who had come there to have blacksmith work done or to have a plough share "pinted".

As a boy George Guy grew up around the log shop and began to learn the trade. In 1900, George himself, started in the smith business for himself. Deciding that he needed to learn more about the business in 1902 he went to Crotty, over on Big Creek in Coffey County, where he worked and learned the blacksmith trade under carry Surber, a well-known blacksmith in southern Coffey and northern Woodson counties.

After a year in the Surber shop, George came back and started his own shop again. In the following years his fine workmanship and well equipped shop that he added to as he went along, built up for him an enviable trade. Just prior to 1920, when the oil boom hit around northwest Woodson Co., George built onto his shop and added heavy lathes and machinery to handle the oil field work.



A 19 - that was owned by George Guy. We had been told that a part of this auto had been built by George. The wheels resemble the wheels off of an old spring wagon. Notice the claxon of horn on the steering wheel. The wooden plow handles have the name of George Guy, Crotty, Kansas. He was on the Vernon mail route, but at times he would get his supplies through Crotty. These high wheels may have had a hard rubber tire around the outside of the wooden fellows. Notice the chains that go around the right rear wheel as if to hold the wheel together.



After 1940 George did not do much smithy work due to ill health, but kept his shop intact. As World War II came upon us, machinery of all kinds was hard to get and George was almost besieged by buyers from all over. Buyers from Ft. Scott, Wichita, Kansas City and one from Chicago were drawn to the country blacksmith shop. Along Duck Creek, trying to buy some of the machinery with in it.

(Editor's Note:) My recollection of this shop goes back to when I was a very small lad as my parents would visit at the Guy home. George never married but stayed with his parents and brothers. On one occasion while I was hanging around the shop I tried to fashion a shop like George's. Getting tired of that I started toward the house where Uncle Curt Harding was painting. About half way between the shop and the house I came upon a new wooden box. Curiosity got the best of me so I tipped the box over. It happened to contain a hive of bees, that swarmed around and over me. My lusty squalls brought George from the shop and Uncle Curt from the house to rescue me.

\* \* \* \* \*



A 10th birthday party of Ruby Phelps, taken in 1900. Back row, left to right are: Clara Marple, Myrtle Smith, Pauline Butler, Doris Keck, Ruby Phelps, Artie Phelps, Front row, left to right, Iva Donnerberg, Ruth Toedman, Alma Bausfeld, Elizabeth Reid, Reta Jones, Maude Trueblood. Reta Jones Campbell and Maude Trueblood Johnson are the only ones living in Yates Center at present.

Ruby Phelps married Earl Guy, brother of the George Guy in the story above.

## SHEEP BARN ON TURKEY CREEK —

There has been several so-called sheep barns along Turkey Creek down through the years, but the one that we will tell about was very close to the west bank of Turkey Creek a half mile north of the Turkey Creek Church in the extreme northwest corner of the northwest quarter of section 13, twp. 24, range 14.

Goffrey Weide on whose land it was built was a shepard in Germany and had come to America seeking a place where he could raise sheep as he would like to, and here on the prairie of Woodson County, he found the place and opportunity. With the help of his three sons, Charles H., Frederick W. and William M., his land holdings expanded and his flock of sheep grew larger. In 1871 the mother, Mrs. Charlotte Weide passed away and was buried on a knoll close to the creek bend to the east and south of the homestead. Goffrey Weide passed away in 1899 at the age of 79 years. Charles H. Weide, the eldest son had come in possession of the land possibly about the time of his marriage to Miss Minnie Upperman, in 1873, who had just come to America from Germany that year.

As the Weide sheep flock had grown to several hundred head, it became necessary to build them adequate shelter. While the building may have started in the year before, the sheep barn was built in 1873. The lower or bank part was built of native sandstone 96 by 40 feet with doors on the south side. The stone part was built by G. Weide, whom we believe was Gotthart, a brother of Goffrey Weide. Gotthart lived between LeRoy and Aliceville in Coffey Co.

The frame part of the large barn was built by Abe Woodruff. The lumber for the frame part of the barn came from a sawmill at LeRoy. The beams, joists, and stringers were mostly walnut with some oak. The joints were all mortised and held together with wooden pegs. It was told that in the evenings Mr. Woodruff would have the Weide boys and hired men busy whittling out the walnut and oak pegs to be used the following day. The basement part of the barn was made to shelter several hundred sheep but was so arranged that any sheep that needed special care could be separated from the rest of the flock. The part above was used to hold the winters supply of feed. The lower part was also arranged so that a team and wagon could go to all parts of the barn. As stated the frame part was all native and was never painted. Some of the sheeting and siding were very wide boards up to 18 inches in width.

At the completion of the large barn that was to become a landmark along Turkey Creek, the barn was dedicated in

proper style. A band was brought from LeRoy, friend and neighbors came from far and near. There were two sets of square dancers on the new board floor. The traditional kegs of beer were also handy. It was quite an event for the people of that area as the entertainment was something the people had to make themselves.

One of the drawbacks of where the sheep barn was built was that it was in a low place and the waters of Turkey Creek would flood the lower part of the barn whenever the creek would get out of its banks. The east end of the old barn was only about 15 feet from the creek bank. The public road used to go between the barn and the creek bank. This road was changed to go around to the west side of the old barn in 1926.



This picture shows the west end of the sheep barn. The marks across the lower part of the barn show where the high water line was made at one of the time it was flooded. On different occasions the water was five feet deep in the barn. Stock would have to be driven out to higher ground.

During the 1870's and 80's from 800 to 1200 head of sheep were kept around the old sheep barn. They were herded on the prairie south and west of where the Turkey Creek Church now stands, and at times as far as North Owl Creek around Cooper's Cave, and at times were herded to the north of the Weide homestead. At sheep shearing time there was much activity in the barn. There were usually around seven men kept busy at shearing time.

One of these herders told the writer about the herding and shearing time. Fritz C. Weide whose story is told in Vol. 13, No. 49 of *In The Beginning*, told that the shearing time was one to remember. As the men and boys worked they would all sing German songs.

During the latter part of 1870, possibly around 1876, the sheep barn served a useful purpose besides housing sheep. The German-Russian colony that came here and settled along Duck Creek and the Nikkeltown area, that received its name from a part of the group. There were 18 families of this group that made their home in the sheep barn while they were building their homes, most of native sod, some rock and some were frame.

In the early morning hours of June 16, 1960, during a thunderstorm, lightning struck the old barn. The writer was the first one to the scene, but the roof had all but collapsed when we arrived. It was rather interesting to watch the old walnut beams burn as they would not give away and fall until they were completely burned and charred through. This happened while the August Beine family lived on this farm.

In all possibilities no barn will ever be built over the old stone wall. The old barn served its purpose for many years. Many tales could be told on the happenings around the old barn. As a boy we used to play around in it and as a young man we used to barn baled hay in it.

We lived only a half mile from the old barn for almost 50 years.

Water was also a problem for much livestock as there was no deep water holes near the barn. At one time a cistern was dug, a windmill built and a pipeline run for almost a quarter mile to the east of the barn to a cistern close to the barn. The old barn had stood there for around 87 years.

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A letter from Mrs. Velva Peterson of Chanute, in part tells us — "I have many happy memories of Woodson County for Grandpa Nathaniel M. Butcher and his wife Elizabeth sold their farm near Middletown in Wilson Co. in 1896 and bought a small farm at the northeast corner of Yates Center at the end of what is now Grove Street, where they developed a prosperous fruit and vegetable farm. He raised only 'Senator Dunlap' strawberries and 'Ponder-Osa' tomatoes. I remember he had two five-acre plots of strawberries with 16 to 20 pickers who wore wide-brimmed straw hats and covered their arms with cotton stockings from which the feet had been cut away, for it was hot and humid those early May and June mornings crawling along the long rows of strawberries.

'Old Dan' the white horse was hitched up to the delivery buggy where the crates of berries were stored in the back and delivered to the house wives all around Yates Center, regular customers from year to year.

# **PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY**

Brown's Western Auto	Kimbell Ranch - Ed Kimbell
Milton & Virginia Schornick	Daylight Donut Shop
Kenneth & Barbara Stockebrand	Edwin H. Bideau Associated
John V. Glades Agency	Agency, Chanute
Street Abstract Co. Inc.	First National Bank, Toronto
State Exchange Bank	Blackjack Cattle Co., Inc.
Self Service Grocery	Yates Center Elevator
Krueger's Variety & Dry Goods	Jasper's Shopping Spot
HiWay Food Basket	Bill Taylor-Gen. Agent
Piqua Farmers Co-op	Woodson Co. Farm Bureau
Gaulding Oil Co.	Atkin Clinic
Donald E. Ward	Daly Western Supply
Morton Equipment Co.	Pyeatte-Jaynes Ins. Agency
Swope & Son Implement Co.	Dyer Chevrolet
Superior Bldg. & Supply, Inc.	Linde Barber Shop
Campbell Plumbing & Electric	House of Fabrics
Clyde Hill	Milton & Marcella Wrampe
Cantrell Pontiac-Buick	E.E.Light
Pringle Ranch-J.W. &	Atkin Rexall Pharmacy
J. Richard Pringle	Campbell Funeral Home
Roger Bros. Garage	Mr. and Mrs. Glen Baker
Artex Manufacturing Co.	Piqua State Bank
J. C. Schnell	Wendell McMurray
Gambles Hardware & Home	Everybody's Grocery
Furnishings	McGinty-Coffman Dept. Store
Glen Shaw	Al's Jewelry
Herring Hardware & Supply	Edwin G. Reid, St. Louis, MO
Wilma Mark	Rex Butler, Nashville, TN

